

## Good Cop Bad Cop? Briefing notes for students for draft resolutions

### Resolution 3 - Put a tax (tariff) on 'carbon' embedded in all products

The rationale for this scheme is to:

- 1) Reduce the incentive to manufacture goods that are high in embedded carbon
- 2) Change consumer buying behaviour by increasing the price of carbon-intensive products so that they buy alternatives

See <https://iea.org.uk/debate-the-pros-and-cons-of-carbon-taxes/>

<https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/the-ci-aca-initiative/about-carbon-pricing#eq-1>

### Benefits apart from reducing carbon emissions.

- Encourages low carbon and more sustainable clean-technology innovation and green investment
- Generates revenue to plough back into environmentally-friendly investments
- Creates health benefits from less pollution and more green job creation.

### Questions

- Which products do you place the tariff on?
- What would the time period be to impose these tariffs to avoid companies going out of business overnight?
- How would you ensure that products in poorer countries were still affordable?
- Although it is easy to track the amount of carbon embedded in some products, in others it is complicated and would be very expensive to do so.

Eg: M&S, the clothing and food retailer, has run a scheme for 10 years or more for their clothes, which is called, 'Look behind the label' so that it is possible to assess the environmental impact of items.

<https://www.marksandspencer.com/c/look-behind-the-label>

- Who would monitor the labelling to ensure there is no 'green washing'?



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